

THE RUDD-REFCA  
2016 CONFERENCE



New Worlds of Adoption & Foster Care:

# THRIVING ON THE FRONTLINE



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Rudd  
ADOPTION RESEARCH  
PROGRAM

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# Rudd ADOPTION RESEARCH | 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award P R O G R A M

## Dr. Joyce Maguire Pavao



Joyce Maguire Pavao, Ed.D., LCSW, LMFT, is the Founder and CEO of Center for Family Connections, Inc. in Cambridge and New York, Adoption Resource Center in Cambridge, Pre/Post Adoption Consulting Team in Cambridge, and Family Connections Training Institute also in Cambridge.

Over the years Dr. Pavao has received many awards and honors, including the Children's Bureau/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Adoption Excellence Award for Family Contribution (2003), The Massachusetts Association for Marriage and Family Therapy award for Outstanding Contribution to the Field of Marriage and

Family Therapy (2003), the North American Council for Adoptable Children award for Adoption Advocate of the Year (2001) and Child Advocate of the Year (2001), and the Congressional Coalition on Adoption award for Angels in Adoption (2000), as nominated by Senator Edward Kennedy and Congressman Mike Capuano.

Throughout her career, Dr. Pavao has worked closely with individuals, couples, and families with adoption-related issues, foster care issues, guardianship and kinship, as well as complex families formed through reproductive technology, single parent families, gay and lesbian families, and families through remarriage.

She has facilitated extensive trainings, both nationally and internationally. She is currently an adjunct faculty member in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and has lectured at Harvard, Smith, Wellesley, UCLA, USC, and Antioch, among other universities. She has consulted to various public and private child welfare agencies, adoption agencies, schools, and community groups, as well as probate and family court judges, lawyers, and clergy. Her constant chant is that adoption is about finding families for children, not about finding children for families and although she is a family therapist with empathy for all parties, she keeps her focus on the best interests of the child. Her other mantra is that it takes a community to hold a family and the wider community needs to understand the Family of Adoption.

She states that more than her degrees and honors, her most valuable credential is that she has experienced life as an adopted person and she has love and great respect for both her birth and adoptive families.



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## 2016 REFCA Champions Award

### Amnoni Myers



This year's Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America (REFCA) Champion is Amnoni Myers, an outstanding foster care advocate who has recently been named a prestigious 2017 National Urban Fellow.

Amnoni is a native of Boston and a graduate of Gordon College where she double majored in Social Work and Sociology. While at Gordon College, Amnoni completed a Social Work/Peace and Conflict Studies Practicum.

In 2014 Amnoni worked in the office of Senator Chuck Grassley as a Foster Youth Intern with the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. She worked on Child Welfare initiatives along with writing and publishing a policy report that she presented to both the White House Domestic Policy Council and members of Congress. Upon completion of her Foster Youth Internship, Amnoni was the Keynote Speaker at the 2014 CCAI Angels in Adoption Awards gala.

In 2015 Amnoni was chosen to be a White House Intern, working with the Domestic Policy Council on Urban Affairs, Justice and Opportunity. Amnoni introduced First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House "Take Our Daughters & Sons To Work Day".

Recently, Amnoni served as a Young Adult Consultant with the Children's Bureau in Washington, D.C., working with states on Child Welfare Policy.

Amnoni is an alumna of our child welfare system who inspires us to aim higher, try harder and strive to be the best nation we can be. Her profound commitment to youth in foster care is so worthy of our recognition and praise.

Amnoni is using her lived experience to help create a national Culture of Possibility. She is shining a light on the amazing potential that our nation's children and youth placed in foster care possess. Her dynamic energy encourages Americans to stand together under the Banner of Shared Responsibility so that all children and youth in foster care can live healthy, connected lives - full of family, community and opportunity.

Bravery shows up in everyday life when people have the courage to live their truth, their vision and their dreams. Amnoni is a stellar example of a brave young REFCA leader. We are proud to recognize her accomplishments, dedication and leadership with the 2016 Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America Award!

# PROGRAM

- 8:00 A.M. REGISTRATION & COFFEE** | 📍 CAMPUS CENTER AUDITORIUM, LEVEL 1
- 8:30 A.M. POSTER PRESENTATIONS** | 📍 CAMPUS CENTER AUDITORIUM, LEVEL 1
- 8:45 A.M. MUSICAL WELCOME** | 📍 CAMPUS CENTER AUDITORIUM, LEVEL 1  
STEPHANY MARRYSHOW, singer/songwriter
- 9:00 A.M. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS** | 📍 CAMPUS CENTER AUDITORIUM, LEVEL 1  
INTRODUCTIONS by DR. HAROLD GROTEVANT, JUDY COCKERTON, DR. RUTH McROY  
OPENING REMARKS by LINDA SPEARS, Massachusetts Department of Children & Families Commissioner  
WELCOME by RAFAEL LOPEZ, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Commissioner via video from Washington, D.C.
- 9:15 A.M. MORNING KEYNOTE** | 📍 CAMPUS CENTER AUDITORIUM, LEVEL 1  
“Implementing Evidence-based Practice with Mothers of Infants and Toddlers in the Child Welfare System”  
**Presenters:** MARY DOZIER, University of Delaware & VICKY KELLY, DCF Delaware
- 10:30 A.M. MORNING CONCURRENT SESSIONS** | 📍 SEE LOCATIONS IN SESSION DESCRIPTIONS
- 12:00 P.M. LUNCH, POSTER SESSION & AWARDS CEREMONY** | 📍 CAMPUS CENTER AUDITORIUM, LEVEL 1  
2016 Rudd Lifetime Achievement Award, 2016 REECA Champions Award, 2016 Outstanding Poster Award  
Please have a seat in the auditorium and you will be called up by table to the lunch buffet.
- 1:15 P.M. AFTERNOON KEYNOTE** | 📍 CAMPUS CENTER AUDITORIUM, LEVEL 1  
“Turning Up the Volume on Older Youth Permanence”  
**Presenters:** RUTH McROY, Donahue and DiFelice Professor of Social Work, Children, Youth & Families  
MARY LEBEAU, MW, LICSW, 3P Consulting LLC  
**Panelists:** Rodney Walker, Cedric Riley, Kim Stevens, Pat O’Brien, Karen Zilberstein, Jaime Caron
- 2:45 P.M. AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS** | 📍 SEE LOCATIONS IN SESSION DESCRIPTIONS
- 4:00 P.M. POSTERS, MUSIC & NETWORKING** | 📍 CAMPUS CENTER AUDITORIUM, LEVEL 1
- 5:00 P.M. END**

# YOUTH PROGRAM

- 8:00 A.M. REGISTRATION, CHECK-IN & REFRESHMENTS** | 📍 CAMPUS CENTER AUDITORIUM, LEVEL 1
- 8:30 A.M. POSTER PRESENTATIONS** | 📍 CAMPUS CENTER, LEVEL 1 CONCOURSE
- 9:00 A.M. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS** | 📍 CAMPUS CENTER AUDITORIUM, LEVEL 1
- 9:30 A.M. YOUTH CONFERENCE WELCOME SESSION** | 📍 CAMPUS CENTER, ROOM 904-908
- //////////////////// **10:15 - 10:30 A.M. BREAK** //////////////////////
- 10:30 A.M. MORNING CONCURRENT SESSION** | 📍 CAMPUS CENTER, ROOM 904-08  
“Advocacy 101: Advocacy of Self” **YOUTH-ONLY SESSION**  
Youth are welcome to attend other sessions. See locations in session descriptions  
**Presenters:** AMINA JORDAN-MENDEZ, GABRIEL PEEPLES
- 11:45 - 1:15 PM LUNCH, POSTER SESSION & AWARDS CEREMONY** | 📍 CAMPUS CENTER, LEVEL 1  
Please have a seat in the auditorium and you will be called up by table to the lunch buffet.
- 1:15 - 2:30 PM YOUTH CONFERENCE AFTERNOON SESSION** | 📍 CAMPUS CENTER, ROOM 904-908
- //////////////////// **2:30 PM YOUTH CONFERENCE ENDS** //////////////////////
- 2:45 - 4 PM AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS** | 📍 SEE LOCATIONS IN SESSION DESCRIPTIONS  
OPTIONAL FOR YOUTH

Our Rudd-RECA youth conference program is a blended model of youth-only workshops and general conference audience workshops. All youth attendees will be together as a cohort twice during the program, once in the morning and once in the afternoon. During the morning concurrent sessions, youth will have the opportunity to attend any conference workshop that interests them. Although the official youth conference ends around the same time as the school day, youth are invited to participate in an afternoon concurrent session of their choice.

# KEYNOTE PRESENTERS

## MORNING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



### Mary Dozier

Mary Dozier is Amy E. du Pont Chair of Child Development and Professor of Psychology at the University of Delaware. She obtained her Ph.D. from Duke University in 1983. Over the last 20 years, she has studied the development of young children in foster care and young children living with neglecting birth parents, examining challenges in attachment and regulatory capabilities. Along with her

graduate students and research team, she developed an intervention, Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-up, that targets specific issues that have been identified as problematic for young children who have experienced adversity. This intervention has been shown to enhance children's secure attachments, ability to regulate cortisol normatively, and executive functioning, among other things. Dr. Dozier is currently conducting randomized clinical trials examining the effectiveness of this intervention with high-risk birth children, foster children, and internationally adopted children, work that has been continuously supported by the National Institute of Mental Health since 1989. She was on the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect, was an associate editor of Child Development, and serves on a number of advisory and editorial boards.



### Vicky Kelly

Dr. Vicky Kelly is a Consultant for the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Former Director of the Delaware Department of Children and Families. Prior to this appointment, she served as the Deputy Director for the Division of Child Mental Health. Prior to public service, she served as the clinical director for several multi-service private agencies. Dr. Kelly has over 30 years of experience in child welfare and mental health as a clinician and program administrator. She received her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology and Masters in Health Administration from Widener University. She received her Masters in Social Work from Louisiana State University. Dr. Kelly has been an Adjunct Professor at the Institute for Clinical Psychology at Widener University. She is a nationally recognized trainer and consultant in trauma and attachment.

## AFTERNOON KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

### Mary LeBeau

Mary LeBeau has worked in the field of child welfare for the past 30 years. For many years Mary provided direct services to children and families, as both a social worker and supervisor. She has a special expertise in curriculum development, child welfare training and delivering post-training support through coaching, mentoring and consultation. She has co-developed program models that integrate family-centered practice principles, youth engagement and trauma informed practice to improve safety, permanency and well-being outcomes for children and youth. Mary has a special interest in permanency planning with older and transitioning youth.



### Ruth McRoy

Ruth G. McRoy became the first holder of the Donahue and DiFelice Endowed Professorship at the Boston College School of Social Work in 2009. Prior to joining the Boston College faculty, McRoy held the Ruby Lee Piester Centennial Professorship at the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work. A practitioner, academician, researcher, and

lecturer in the field for over 30 years, her research has focused on such topics as culturally competent service delivery, family preservation, open adoptions, post adoption services, transracial adoptions, and older child adoptions. McRoy has published numerous articles and books, including: Transracial and Inracial Adoptees: The Adolescent Years (with L. Zurcher); and Transracial and Intercountry Adoptions: Culturally Sensitive Guidance for Professionals (with R. Fong). She received the St. John's 2010 Outstanding Scholar in Adoption Award; the 2013 Children's Bureau Adoption Excellence Award, and the 2014 Child Advocate of the Year Award from the North American Council on Adoptable Children.

## Panelists

**Rodney Walker**, REECA Champion. Author of *A New Day One: Trauma, Grace and a Young Man's Journey from Foster Care To Yale*

**Cedric Riley**, Nationally-recognized foster youth advocate

**Kim Stevens**, Program Director, Advocates for Families First, NACAC

**Pat O'Brien**, Founder, You Gotta Believe

**Karen Zilberstein**, Clinical Director, A Home Within

**Jaime Caron**, Director, Massachusetts DCF Central Region

University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Office of Information Technologies

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Effective Dates: From 5/13/16 To 5/13/16

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# MORNING CONCURRENT SESSIONS

## **Racial Identity at the Intersection of Artist, Academic, and Advocate**

*Susan Harris O'Connor, Ruth McRoy, Kim Stevens*

 **CAMPUS CENTER AUDITORIUM**

This session vividly illustrates how the intersection of three perspectives (artist, academic, and advocate) can provide a more powerful understanding of the complexity in the development of racial identities of transracially adopted children. Emphasis is placed on how professionals can assist adoptive, foster and first families in advocating and providing the necessary supports. There will be a Q & A period for further dialogue on both the subject matter and this innovative style of teaching and collaboration.

## **Dan Hughes' Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy for Children with Trauma and Attachment Histories: An Introduction for Caretakers and Therapists**

*Robert Spottswood*

 **ROOM 163C**

Children who learned from early experience to not trust adults for help or care can present troubling emotional challenges to loving caretakers. This presentation will explain the experiential logic behind that mistrust, as well as Dan Hughes' relationship-focused approach to re-engaging such children. Attendees will hear the theory behind Hughes' model, practice an attitude of PACE (Playful, Accepting, Curious and Empathic), and view short clips of a variety of DDP therapy sessions (subtitled).

## **The Secure Base Model: A Framework for Therapeutic Caregiving in Foster Care and Adoption**

*Mary Beek*

 **ROOM 165-69**

This session introduces and explains a framework for providing focused, therapeutic caregiving to children in foster care and adoption: The Secure Base model, developed by Professor Gillian Schofield and Dr. Mary Beek at the University of East Anglia, UK. The Secure Base model is based in theories of attachment and resilience and drawn from research and practice in foster care and adoption. The presenter will briefly describe the model and its applications and give examples of the ways that foster carers and adopters have successfully used it as a tool to shape their caregiving and support their children's progress and development. Associated publications and resources will be signposted.

## **Improving the Outcomes for Success: Building a National Adoption Competent Child Welfare and Mental Health Workforce**

*Debbie Riley, Anne Atkinson*

 **ROOM 168C**

This presentation will highlight the need for adoption competency training for child welfare workers and mental health professionals, provide an overview of the development, implementation, and rigorous multi-year evaluation of the Training for Adoption Competency (TAC), now in 15 states and the foundational constructs for a Children's Bureau funded web-based training program, the National Adoption Competent Mental Health Training Initiative (NTI) both developed by the Center for Adoption Support and Education.

## **Fostering Futures: A Successful Community Volunteer Team Model for Supporting Foster Families**

*Bill McLaughlin, Darlene Ward*

 **ROOM 174-76**

Fostering Futures NY (FFNY) is an innovative program that is operating in three counties in upstate New York that is identifying previously untapped resources from within the community. The program is essentially a foster parent support model that uses no government resources. FFNY builds partnerships between teams of volunteers from the community and individual foster families. The goal of a team is simple - to provide practical help to foster parents in their task of providing a safe, stable and nurturing home for the the abused and neglected children in their care. The early results are positive. Foster parents are better supported and more satisfied in their roles. Children have more interaction with adults and they are less likely to be moved. And volunteers love the chance to make a difference in kids lives!

## **Mapping Needs, Costs and Outcomes: The English Adoption Journey**

*Lisa Holmes and Samantha McDermid*

 **ROOM 804-08**

This presentation will outline the adoption pathways in England and will highlight how a systematic approach to analyzing and costing pathways can, and has, informed strategic planning. Furthermore the presentation will highlight the importance of costing child welfare services using the child as the unit of analysis, rather than focusing purely on fiscal data. Examples will be provided of how this approach facilitates an exploration of children's needs and circumstances, how they impact on children's pathways through the child welfare system and the outcomes that are achieved.

## **Think of Us!**

*Sixto Cancel*

 **ROOM 805-09**

Think of Us is developing an online platform to support foster youth, foster/adoptive parents, and the state workforces. Think of Us started as a commitment of action with the Clinton Global Initiative University. The idea: To develop an online space for youth to access content to help them navigate their lives. The Think of Us Team is led by founder, Sixto Cancel and made up of fifteen young professionals/seasoned experts.

## **Advocacy 101: Advocating for Self (Youth-Only Workshop)**

*Amina Jordan-Mendez, Gabriel Peebles, Chris Langelier*

 **ROOM 904-08**

In this workshop youth will have the opportunity to learn and practice self-advocacy skills. They will gain experience that will help them to better navigate the world of participatory child welfare, a shift in the system after the passage of the Strengthening Families Act. Youth need to develop the skills to participate in the process on their own behalf in a respectful and engaged way that will ensure their voices will be heard. The workshop will highlight several key pieces of policy in Massachusetts, including the Foster Child Bill of Rights and the Sibling Bill of Rights.

## **Creating Trauma-Sensitive Schools**

*Anne Eisner*

 **ROOM 917**

This presentation will share the work of the Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative, a collaboration of Massachusetts Advocates for Children and Harvard Law School. Based on their publications, Helping Traumatized Children Learn and Creating and Advocating for Trauma-Sensitive Schools, the workshop will summarize trauma's impact on learning, behavior and relationships at school, and briefly describe the Attributes and Framework that can guide schools in creating the school-wide infrastructure needed to provide a safe and supportive, trauma-sensitive learning environment that is responsive, not only to the needs of students who have been exposed to adverse childhood experiences, but to the needs of all students. The highlight of the presentation will be the opportunity to hear from a team of educators who are creating a trauma-sensitive school.

# Rudd ADOPTION RESEARCH PROGRAM

A gift from Andrew and Virginia Rudd, combined with matching funds, established the Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology. The Rudds' gift reflects their personal commitment to stimulate the development of new knowledge about adoption in order to benefit adoption practice (placements, education, post-adoption services, clinical work) and policy (at agency, state, federal, and international levels.)

The Rudd Adoption Research Program is the primary vehicle through which the activities of the Rudd Chair are carried out. The program is located within the University of Massachusetts Amherst Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences and is closely affiliated with the interdisciplinary Center for Research on Families. The program is directed by Harold D. Grotevant, Ph.D., who holds the Rudd Family Foundation

Chair in Psychology at UMass Amherst and also serves as Chair of the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. He is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association, the Association for Psychological Science, and the National Council on Family Relations. In 2016, he was selected to present his research in the Distinguished Faculty Lecture series; he is also the 2016 recipient of the Chancellor's Medal, the highest recognition bestowed to faculty by the campus.



*Dr. Harold Grotevant, Rudd Family Foundation Chair, with Andrew and Virginia Rudd, whose generous gift established the Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology.*

## The Rudd Adoption Research Program has four goals:

- to advance knowledge about the psychology of adoption through original research
- to mentor the next generation of adoption-competent researchers
- to engage with community partners to incubate and evaluate innovative programs that have potential for national impact
- and to provide research-based information to influence practice and policy at agency, state, federal, and international levels.

### Rudd Adoption Research Program

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For more information, visit our website at:

[www.umass.edu/ruddchair/](http://www.umass.edu/ruddchair/)



## Treehouse Foundation: Inspiring a Re-Envisioning of Foster Care in America

We make a promise to children and youth when we removed them from their homes: To provide them with safety and find them a permanent, loving connection if they cannot be returned to their first family.

The Treehouse Foundation promotes public investment in child welfare and seeks to inspire, implement and support innovative child welfare practices that help the nation keep its promise and ensure children and youth in foster care find lifelong family relationships in supportive communities.

Established in 2002 by nationally recognized social entrepreneur Judy Cockerton, the Treehouse Foundation is spearheading efforts to engage millions of Americans to become vital family and regional resources.

In 2006, Treehouse opened its first intergenerational Treehouse Community in Easthampton, MA. where families adopting children from foster care live in a close knit neighborhood with generous elders (ages 55+). The award winning Treehouse Community model is currently being replicated in California and Massachusetts.

In 2010, Treehouse launched the Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America (REFCA) Movement. A powerful driver of foster care innovation, the REFCA Movement invites Americans to stand together under the Banner of Shared Responsibility and actively support the success of our foster care system.

### THE REFCA MOVEMENT

**ELEVATES:** Helps people understand the deep value of investing in the hopes, dreams and futures of the youngsters who are placed in it. Establishes new norms around child welfare practice, citizen engagement and positive life outcomes.

What does REFCA do?  
REFCA collaborates, engages, envisions, leads, inspires, invests & mobilizes Americans of all ages and backgrounds to become resources to children & youth placed in foster care.

**COLLABORATE**  
REFCA 2016



**ENABLES:** Increases opportunities for citizen engagement so that we reduce the number of young people aging out of foster care. Decreases risks for homelessness, unemployment, incarceration, teen parenting and lives of poverty.

**EXPANDS:** Builds and connects a robust and growing movement of individuals and organizations working to advance the Re-Envisioning Foster Care in America Movement across sectors and the nation.

**HONORS ADVOCACY:** Acknowledges leaders who are out in the world changing the foster care narrative. REFCA Champions are shining examples of Americans who inspire others to become resources to children & youth in foster care.

### Treehouse Foundation

One Treehouse Circle, Easthampton, MA 01027

Phone: (413) 527-7966 Web: [www.refca.net](http://www.refca.net)

# AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS

## **The Legacy of Foster Care: An Intergenerational Panel of Foster Care Alumni**

*Grace Hilliard-Koshinsky, Charles Lerner*

Legacy is defined as “something that comes from the past”. While the legacy of foster care may be different from person to person depending on their experiences, the impact is felt nonetheless. Alumni panelists from across generations come together at this year’s Rudd-RECA Conference to discuss how they have integrated their experiences in foster care into their lives personally and professionally. They have come together in the hope that by sharing their stories you may become an even more effective ally to children and youth who follow in their footsteps as alumni.

 **CAMPUS CENTER AUDITORIUM**

## **Technology on the Frontline: Changing Practice, Changing Lives**

*Adam Pertman*

The population of children and families we serve through foster care and adoption has changed radically in the 21st Century, and so the institutions themselves are evolving to meet their needs. This presentation examines the research and implications of this historic transformation, with a particular focus on the technological advances – such as the internet, social media, “data-sharing” and even IBM’s Watson computing system – that are adding complexities of our world even as they are providing unprecedented opportunities to improve outcomes.

 **ROOM 162-75**

## **Improving College Graduation Outcomes for Foster Youth: The Wily Network**

*Judi King, Katherine MacDonald*

The vision of the Wily Network is to improve college graduations outcomes for youth with foster care experience at four-year residential colleges. Our presentation will offer a brief history of higher education support programs for college students with foster care experience. Using examples from our work we will outline the critical need for developing robust programs to enhance each scholar’s college experience and help them to develop a life long network of peers and supports. Finally, we will highlight the importance of creating performance metrics in order to continually evaluate the networks efficacy.

 **ROOM 163C**

## **Getting Practice Right: Using the Strength and Limits of Research Findings to “Bridge the Gap” Between Practice and Research**

*Beth Neil, Sally Popper, Karen Zilberstein*

This session explores how gaps between research and practice can be bridged. In the first part of the session, Karen Zilberstein and Sally Popper will identify areas in which research has provided useful guides for practice and areas in which research and standardized interventions do not yet completely address the experiences and needs of individual children and families. The second contribution will be from Beth Neil who will outline the “Contact after Adoption Change Project” from the UK. This project brings together an adoption researcher with experienced adoption professionals with the aim of coproducing online resources to help make research-informed, case sensitive decisions about post adoption contact for children adopted from foster care.

 **ROOM 165-69**

## **Finding Adoptive Families for Children in Care: Perspectives from the US and England**

*Cherilyn Dance, Kathy Ledesma*

In this session, which is intended as an opportunity to reflect on adoption policy and practice, Kathy and Cherilyn will consider the way in which adoption has become a permanence option for some groups of children in care in the US and in England. They will explore briefly the profiles of children adopted from care and touch on similarities and differences in legislation, policy, process and practice in the two countries. The main focus of the session will be on current issues and tensions associated with finding families for children in a timely way. Topics to be discussed will include assessment of parental capacity and care planning for children within the Human Rights framework, practitioner values and beliefs, delays for children and the impact of new technology and adopter-initiated matching.

 **ROOM 168C**

## **Facilitating Peer Support between Foster Carers in the UK**

*Samantha McDermid*

Peer support between foster carers has been found to facilitate emotional and practical support for foster carers, information sharing and opportunities to reflect on and improve practice, along with reducing foster carers stress, reducing disruptions in placements, and improvements to the retention of foster carers. This presentation will bring together the findings of three research studies to explore three innovative approaches to facilitate peer support between foster carers and the impact that those approaches have carers and the children and young people they care for. The issues associated with implementing such models within fostering services in the UK and recommendations for policy and practice will also be examined.

 **ROOM 174-76**

## **Part of the Family: Achieving Permanence in Long-Term Family Foster Care**

*Mary Beek, Joyce Maguire Pavao*

This presentation will explore research on long-term foster care as a permanence option. It will focus on two contentious practice issues. First there is the extent to which long-term foster children become fully part of the family as intended in the concept of permanence. Secondly there is the question of the role that foster carers in long-term placements need to play as both skilled professionals and committed parents. This presentation will bring together key research findings with reflections on policy, practice and the support needs of long-term foster care placements.

 **ROOM 804-08**

## **Sexual Minority and Heterosexual Parents Adopting Through the Child Welfare System: Challenges and Surprises During the Transition to Parenthood and Beyond**

*Abbie Goldberg, April Moyer, David Brodzinsky*

This session will address some of the unexpected challenges and surprises encountered by heterosexual, lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals and couples who adopt through the child welfare system. Data will be presented regarding (a) the challenges that foster-to-adopt parents encounter post-placement, including: legal insecurity in their parental role, disorganization within social service systems, inadequate support services, and complex relationships with birth parents; (b) unmet expectations that foster-to-adopt parents often encounter with regard to the types of children that are placed in their home (e.g., in terms of age, race, gender, and special needs); and (c) the experiences of parents that have adopted via child welfare in terms of contact and openness with birth family members. Engaged and informal discussion of the implications of these findings for families and clinicians, as well as Q&A, will follow these brief research presentations.

 **ROOM 805-09**

## **Transaction to Transformation: A Modern Understanding of Adoption to Strengthen All Families**

*April Dinwoodie*

After decades of research, passionate advocacy and practical experiences - why haven’t policies and practices on behalf of children and families moved far enough and fast enough? The Donaldson Adoption Institute will share results of new public opinion research that gauges how much Americans really know about adoption, where they stand on issues impacting adoption and modern family structures and explore key actions that are needed in order to truly bring a new world of adoption to life.

 **ROOM 811-15**

## **Expanding the Village: How “One Simple Wish” is Encouraging EVERYONE To Support Youth in Foster Care**

*Danielle Gletow*

In 2006, Danielle Gletow and her husband, Joe, became foster parents in NJ with the goal of adopting. Frustrated by the stigma held by many about foster children and knowing they needed to empower more of the masses to get involved, they created One Simple Wish in 2008. Seven years later, OSW serves more than 6,000 kids a year in 49 states through over 750 community partnerships. OSW has encouraged a conversation about helping our nation’s most vulnerable youth. Now OSW is embarking on yet another innovative undertaking, to bring OSW nationwide. This engaging and interactive approach to showing everyone how they fit into the solution has raised over 3 million dollars in private support and garnered the attention of CNN Heroes, NBC Nightly News, The Christian Science Monitor and scores of other national media outlets.

 **ROOM 917**

# POSTERS

- 1. Predictive Associations between Prenatal and Postnatal Risk Factors and Developmental and Temperamental Outcomes Among Infants in Foster Care**  
Irene Tung (University of California, Los Angeles), Allison S. Christian-Brandt, Audra Langley, Jill M. Waterman
- 2. Trends in U.S. Adoptions: 2008—12**  
Matthew Shuman (Child Welfare Information Gateway)
- 3. Unique Features of Identity Development in Transnational Adoptions**  
Minori Haga Stefon (University of New Hampshire), Erin Hiley Sharp
- 4. “We’re All Different... We’re All the Same”: Lesbian, Gay, and Heterosexual Adoptive Parents’ Socialization Approaches to their Children’s Minority Statuses**  
Kaitlin A. Black (Clark University), Abbie E. Goldberg, Kristin K. Sweeney, April M. Moyer
- 5. Longitudinal Trajectories of Mental Health in Youth Adopted from Foster Care**  
Austin Blake (University of California, Los Angeles), Jill M. Waterman
- 6. Becoming an Adoptive Family of Four: An Exploration of How Adoptive Families Prepare their Children for the Transition to Siblinghood**  
Reihonna Frost (Clark University), Abbie E. Goldberg
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